

135157

DARTON
(YORKS.)
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
— AND
Sanitary Inspector,

FOR THE
Year ending 31st December, 1947.

Barnsley:
R. E. Griffiths Ltd., Printers, Hanson Street..

—
1948.

DARTON
(YORKS.)
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

AND
Sanitary Inspector,

FOR THE
Year ending 31st December, 1947.

Barnsley :
R. E. Griffiths Ltd., Printers, Hanson Street..

—
1948.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29151557>

DARTON (YORKS.) URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1947.

Chairman :

Councillor HAROLD C. DORMAND

(Vice-Chairman of the Council).

Members :

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

(Councillor H. IBBERSON).

Councillor A. COOPER.

„ O. FROST.

„ A. HINCHLIFFE.

„ Mrs. I. JOHNSON.

„ C. MASON.

„ E. S. OWEN, B.A.

„ G. PRIESTLEY.

„ J. ROEBUCK, B.E.M.

„ C. SKELTON.

„ F. WILKINSON.

Clerk to the Council—

ROBERT SMITH.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS :

Medical Officer of Health—

P. F. X. DRAKE, M.B., Ch.B. Glas.

(Resigned 30th September, 1947).

A. REEVES, M.A., M.D..

B.Ch., B.A.O. (Dub.), D.P.H. (Vict., Manch.)

Divisional Medical Officer

(Appointed 1st October, 1947).

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent—

HAROLD HOBSON, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.Inst., P.C.

(Acting 1st January - 15th June, 1947).

IRVINE FIELDHOUSE, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.,

Certified Meat and Foods Inspector

(Appointed 16th June, 1947).

Clerk—

Miss OLIVE GIBSON, Shorthand - Typist

(Resigned 24th December, 1947).

Darton Urban District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR 1947.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Darton Urban District Council.**

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Health Services of the Darton Urban District for 1947.

You will recall that I took up my duties as Medical Officer of Health on 1st October, 1947, when the West Riding Scheme for the Divisional Administration of the Preventive Medical Services became operative in this Area. Many difficulties had to be surmounted in establishing a complicated scheme of Divisional Administration and many more remain to be overcome in the months ahead. Not the least of my problems was to get a Public Health Department functioning with a staff largely without previous experience in a Health Department.

This Report is prepared according to information received from my predecessor, Dr. Drake, for the first nine months of the year and the statistics collected by myself for the remaining three months. Generally speaking the Health of the Area has been good. There was a big epidemic of Measles during the year, but, fortunately, there were no deaths resulting from it. The incidence of Whooping Cough was much less than in 1946.

Overcrowding presents great difficulties in the Area, but not greater than those existing in other Areas.

The Death Rate is 10·6 per 1,000 estimated population.

Death Rate in 1946 was 8·42 per 1,000 estimated population.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	4,726
Population in 1931	...	...	...	...	...	12,698
Estimated Population in 1947	...	...	...	...	...	14,000
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	8,890
Rateable Value...	...	...	...	...	...	£49,788
Net product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£191 19s. 0·47d.

(1) DEATHS.

The following Table shows the causes of Death and is amended for inward and outward transfers:—

					M.	F.	Total
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Influenza	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Measles	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Acute Polio-Myel. and Polio-Enceph.	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Acute Inf. Enceph.	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Cancer of Buc. Cav. & Oesoph (M), Uterus (F)	...	...	...	...	0	3	3
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	0	2	2
Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	6	6	12
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	0	2	2
Inter-Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	6	13	19
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	18	12	30
Other Diseases of Circ. System	...	...	...	...	3	4	7
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3	5	8
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	4	2	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	0	2	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Puerperal and Post-Abort. Sepsis	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	4	5	9
Con. Mal. Birth Inj. Infant Disease	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Suicide	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	4	0	4
Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	6	0	6
All Other Causes	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
TOTALS	..	..	..	..	66	68	134

(2) BIRTHS.

During the year 1947, 172 Male Births and 155 Female Births, making a total of 327 Births were registered. Of this total 5 Male and 9 Female Births were illegitimate.

The Birth Rate for the year was 23·4 per 1,000 estimated population. In 1946, the Birth Rate was 21·9 per 1,000 population.

(3) STILL BIRTHS.

There were 4 Male and 5 Female Still Births out of a total of 336 (Live and Still) Births, giving a Rate of 26·79 per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births. All the Still Births were legitimate.

(4) INFANTILE MORTALITY (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births).

During 1947, a total of 19 Deaths of infants under 1 year occurred, consisting of 10 Male and 9 Female Deaths. The Infantile Mortality Rate was 58 per 1,000 registered Live Births. The rate in 1946 was 26·3 per 1,000 Births. Of the total Deaths, 17 were legitimate and 2 illegitimate.

MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH.

Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	9
Bronchopneumonia	...	...	...	...	3
Congenital Malformation	...	...	...	...	2
Asphyxia	...	...	..	...	1
Cardiac Failure following Septicæmia				...	1
Meningocele	...	...	...	...	1

Comments on Infantile Mortality.

PREMATURE BIRTHS.

There were 9 deaths from prematurity during the year. A reduction in the loss of life from this cause must and will be brought about. There will inevitably be some loss of life from prematurity. In some cases the degree of prematurity is incompatable with life but many of these babies can be saved if given skilled care and attention. A scheme has been introduced in the area recently under which all mothers in premature labour will be confined in the Maternity Wing of the St. Helen's Hospital, Barnsley, and the babies will be nursed until fit to go home in the premature baby unit. The scheme will be for a trial period only and would have been impossible to introduce but for the enthusiastic co-operation of the Resident Medical Superintendent of the Hospital, Dr. Wilson.

During 1947, the percentage survival of premature babies in the St. Helen's Premature Baby Unit exceeded 88%—a highly creditable achievement. The scheme has the blessing of the County Medical Officer (Dr. Fraser Brockington) and the Consultant Pædiatrician (Dr. Harvey). It has been received well by the great majority of the General Practitioners working in the Divisional area and by the Midwives. While this scheme is in operation every effort will be made to enable the Midwives in the area to attend post graduate courses of instruction in the care of the Premature Baby. These courses of instruction are held at centres such as the Sorrento Maternity Home, Moseley, Birmingham. At present, only a limited number of vacancies are available, but a start will be made shortly when a Midwife from this area will attend a 4 weeks' course of instruction in Premature Baby Care. It is not considered advisable to employ a "specialist" Midwife for looking after premature babies. Rather should every Midwife be enabled by suitable training to undertake this work as part of her daily or nightly job.

Domiciliary care of the Premature Baby rather than Institutional may in the long run provide a more satisfactory answer to the problem of how to ensure a greater survival rate among Premature Babies. In this area at the present time adequate facilities for the care of the Premature Baby in the home are difficult to obtain in many cases. There is considerable overcrowding in a large number of homes where it would be impossible to care adequately for a Premature Baby. Later, when the Midwives have had an opportunity of studying the most up-to-date methods of Premature Baby Care, when the housing position improves, and the results of the present scheme are known, the question of the most suitable means of caring for the Premature Baby will be reconsidered.

(5) MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no Maternal Deaths during the year.

The following Table shows the Principal Vital Statistics for the year 1947, based on the Registrar-General's Figures, and shows a comparison between this District, the aggregate West Riding Urban Districts, the West Riding Administrative County and England and Wales (Provisional Figures).

DARTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Principal Vital Statistics for the year, 1947.

Based on Registrar-General's Figures.

	Darton Urban District	Aggreg- ate West Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Admins. County	England and Wales (Provisional Figures)
BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population) ...	23·4	21·6	21·5	20·5
DEATH RATES (All per 1,000 estimated population):				
All Causes	9·6	12·7	12·3	12·0
*Zymotic Diseases (seven principal) ... ..	...	0·16	0·16	**
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0·29	0·38	0·39	0·47
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ...	0·14	0·09	0·09	0·08
†Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis of Respiratory System)	1·14	1·41	1·37	**
Cancer	1·57	1·87	1·80	1·85
‡Heart and Circulatory Diseases	2·64	4·23	3·98	**
INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths under one year per 1,000 Live Births)	58	44	45	41
DIARRHŒA (Deaths in Infants under 2 years of age per 1,000 Live Births) ...	...	5·17	5·31	5·8
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Deaths of Mothers in Child-birth per 1,000 Live & Still Births—				
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	...	0·24	0·21	0·26
Other Causes ... ..	...	0·88	1·07	0·91
TOTAL ... ..	...	1·12	1·28	1·17

* Combined Death Rate from Small Pox (if any), Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever, Diphtheria, Measles, Whooping Cough, also Diarrhœa in Infants under 2 years of age.

† Combined Death Rate from Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases, excluding Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.

‡ Combined Death Rate from Heart Diseases and other Diseases of the Circulatory System.

** Figures not available.

Prevalence of Infectious Disease.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES other than Tuberculosis during 1947.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 22 cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year. This number compares with 39 for 1946. There were no deaths. 10 cases were admitted to Hospital. The number of cases of Scarlet Fever which require hospitalization diminishes and the great majority of cases can now be treated at home. The disease at present is comparatively mild and in the majority of cases causes little disability to the patient. It is imperative, however, to keep all cases under the close medical supervision of the Family Doctor to ensure that possible complications are not overlooked. By nursing more Scarlet Fever Patients at home considerable assistance is given to the bedstate and nursing staff at the Isolation Hospital. In certain cases where home conditions are unsatisfactory, Hospitalization will, of course, be essential.

DIPHTHERIA.

There was one case of Diphtheria notified during the year. In 1946 three cases occurred.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

Seven cases were notified during the year of which six were admitted to Hospital. There were three deaths. During 1946 one case was notified.

MEASLES.

393 cases were notified during the year. During 1946, 13 cases were notified. The incidence of Measles during 1947 was very high indeed. The disease, however, caused little disability to the patients and there were no deaths.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

There was one case notified during the year and the patient was admitted to the Jessop Hospital. There was one case notified in 1946.

POLIOMYELITIS.

Three cases were notified, but the diagnosis was confirmed in only one case. This case was interesting in that the only sign present was paralysis of the soft palate. Complete recovery, which was slow, followed.

ERYSIPELAS.

Seven cases of Erysipelas were notified during the year. This number compared with three cases notified during 1946.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Eleven cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year. 48 Four cases were notified in 1946.

Houses where cases of Infectious Disease have occurred are disinfected by the Health Department staff either immediately after the removal of the patient to Hospital, or in the event of cases nursed at home, after the Family Practitioner certifies the patient free from infection. The value of this measure is doubtful.

Epidemiology.

Notifiable Disease other than T.B.			Number Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.			Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	22	...	10	...	0
Diphtheria	...	...	1	...	1	...	0
Measles	...	...	393	...	0	...	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	11	...	0	...	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	7	...	6	...	0 3
Dysentery	...	...	0	...	0	...	0
Erysipelas	...	...	7	...	0	...	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	1	...	1	...	0
Pneumonia	...	...	10	...	1	...	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	2	...	0	...	0
*Poliomyelitis	...	...	3	...	1	...	0

*The Diagnosis in 2 cases of Poliomyelitis was not confirmed.

The following Table gives the age distribution of the INFECTIOUS DISEASES notified during the year :—

Notifiable Disease.			0 - 1	1 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 45	45 - 65	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	5	14	1	2	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Measles	...	...	17	218	157	1	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	10	1	...	..	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	2	3	2	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Pneumonia	...	...	1	3	2	...	3	1	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...

Schools.

A School Clinic commenced in the Area in October, 1947. This is held each Monday at 2 p.m. and is attended by the Assistant County Medical Officer and the School Nurse. Apart from the School Medical Officer and the School Nurse, teachers and parents may refer children to the Clinic. It is hoped that the Clinic will be of value to parents and teachers in the Area.

Nine day schools, administered by the County Council, serve the Area as follows :—

1 at Kexborough, 3 at Darton, 1 at Barugh Green,
2 at Mapplewell and 2 at Gawber.

Return of Meals and Milk supplied on 16th October, 1947.

The following information has been supplied by Mr. BEARDSSELL, Divisional Education Officer;—

	MEALS.			MILK.		
	Free.	ment.	Total.	$\frac{1}{2}$ -Pt.	$\frac{3}{4}$ -Pt.	Total.
Darton Hall Modern Boys	33	158	191	192	...	192
Darton Hall Modern Girls	38	226	264	274	13	287
Darton Council J.M.I. ...	17	125	142	168	...	168
Darton Barugh	25	142	167	288	...	288
Darton Gawber	2	26	29	66	...	66
Darton Gawber C.E. ..	2	20	22	48	...	48
Darton Kexborough ...	18	91	109	228	...	228
Darton Mapplewell J.M. ..	26	153	179	264	...	264
Darton Mapplewell I. ...	11	109	120	192	...	192

Accommodation and Numbers on Roll, 12th Sept., 1947.

	Accommodation.	No. on Register.
Darton Hall Modern Boys ...	280*	295
Darton Hall Modern Girls ...	280*	328
Darton Council J.M.I.	300	265
Darton Barugh	330	286
Darton Gawber Council	129	68
Darton Gawber C.E. Infants ...	120	44
Darton Kexborough Council ...	350	240
Darton Mapplewell J.M.	355	292
Darton Mapplewell I.	150†	201

* Raised to 360 by provision of prefabricated buildings.

† Temporary accommodation for 80 additional children provided in rented premises.

Tuberculosis.

- (1) Number of cases on Register at the beginning of 1947 :—

PULMONARY.				NON-PULMONARY.				Total.
Male.		Female.		Male.		Female.		
23	...	11	...	8	...	10	...	52

- (2) Number of cases at end of 1947 :—

PULMONARY.				NON-PULMONARY.				Total.
Male.		Female.		Male.		Female.		
29	...	9	...	8	...	10	...	56

- (3) Number of notifications received during 1947 :—

Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.
9	...	1	...	10

- (4) Total number of cases removed from Register during 1947 ... 5

- (5) Number of cases admitted to Sanatoria during 1947 ... 8

- (6) Number of deaths from Tuberculosis during 1947 :—

Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.
4	...	2	...	6

- (7) Distribution of Notification (Sex and Occupation) :—

Age.		Sex.		Occupation.
31	...	Male	...	Miner
24	...	Female	...	Housewife
25	...	Male	...	Maintenance Fitter
20	...	Female	...	Mill Worker
27	...	Male	...	Colliery Surface Worker
15/19	...	Male	...	Child
8	...	Male	...	Child
28	...	Female	...	—
27	...	Female	...	—

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

One case was notified during the year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Facilities existed for Immunisation either at the Infant Welfare Clinic or by the Family Practitioner. The value of Immunisation in preventing Diphtheria is appreciated by the vast majority of parents in the Area and requests for Immunisation have been highly satisfactory.

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time
up to 31st December, 1947.

Age at 31/12/47 ... i.e., Born in Year ...	Under 1 1947	1 1946	2 1945	3 1944	4 1943	5 - 9 1938-1942	10 - 14 1933-1937	Total under 15
Number Immunised ...	83	115	144	153	191	1,234	907	2,827
Estimated mid-year Child population, 1947	Children under 5 1,460							Children, 5 - 14 2,300

Laboratory Facilities.

The Laboratory for the Area is situated at Wakefield and was under the control of the West Riding County Council. The service provided was invaluable and continue to be of the greatest assistance to the Medical Officer of Health and to the General Practitioners in the Area.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Ambulance Service provided by the Darton Council was available during the year. On the 1st October, 1947, the service was taken over by the West Riding County Council, but the Darton Council continued to run the service as agents for the County Council.

The Normanton Hospital Authority provided ambulance facilities for conveying Infectious Disease Patients to the Ackton Isolation Hospital, the cost being borne by the Darton Council.

The various collieries in the Area provided their own service for conveying accident cases to Hospital.

Hospitals—Public and Voluntary.

The St. Helen Hospital, Barnsley, the Beckett Hospital, Barnsley, the Jessop Hospital Sheffield, the Royal Hospital and Royal Infirmary, Sheffield, supply the needs of the Area.

Number of patients admitted to the St. Helen Hospital from the Area in 1947 :—

Barugh and Barugh Green	...	...	27
Darton	...	...	87
Gawber	...	...	31
Higham	...	...	14
Kexborough	...	...	19
Redbrook	...	...	13
Staincross and Mapplewell	...	...	68

Venereal Diseases.

Treatment is available at the Barnsley Centre. Patients attend at the following times :—

Men.	Women.
Monday ... 6 - 8 p.m.	Monday ... 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Thursday ... 6 - 8.30 p.m.	Thursday ... 2.30 - 6 p.m.

MATERNITY HOME ACCOMMODATION.

Arrangements were made by the West Riding County Council for admission to the St. Helen Hospital, Barnsley, the Hallamshire Maternity Home and several other County Maternity Homes.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases of Infectious Diseases were admitted to the Ackton Isolation Hospital, Nr. Featherstone.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.

The bulk of the water supply is obtained from four deep boreholes owned by the Penistone Urban District Council. Further supplies of water are received from the County Borough of Barnsley.

The water from both sources is pure and of good quality as shewn by chemical analysis and bacteriological examination.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Sewage is satisfactorily treated at the Council owned disposal works at Low Barugh.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, PUBLIC CLEANSING, SANITARY INSPECTION,

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTION, ETC.

These items are dealt with in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

FOOD ADULTERATION, CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

This service continues as in the past to be administered by the County Council.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There are no swimming baths in this Area. Persons requiring recreation of this kind attend the swimming baths provided at Barnsley and Scissett.

West Riding County Council Services.

The following services are available in the Darton Area :—

INFANT WELFARE CLINIC.

Darton— Each Wednesday at Infant School, Station Road.
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Staincross—Each Thursday at Wesleyan Sunday School, Barnsley Road. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Gawber— Each Tuesday at Higham Church Hall.
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Mothers are referred to the Clinic by the Family Practitioner, Health Visitors or Midwife.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

Held in the same premises as Infant Welfare Clinic at Darton.

Darton— Held on 1st and 3rd Mondays in the month at 9 a.m.

Staincross—Held on 2nd Mondays in the month at 9 a.m.

Gawber— Held on 4th Mondays in the month at 9 a.m.

Patients are referred by Family Doctor, Midwives or Health Visitors.

SCHOOL CLINICS.

Held in the same premises as Infant Welfare Clinic at Darton.

Darton— Each Monday from 2 to 4 p.m.

Gawber— Each Wednesday at Higham Church Hall, 10 to 12 a.m.

Children may be referred by Family Doctor, Teacher, School Nurse, Parents or School Medical Officer.

MINOR AILMENT CLINIC.

Darton— Each Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Staincross—Each Thursday at 10 a.m.

Gawber— Each Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Cases are referred by School Medical Officer, Teacher or School Nurse.

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC.

This Clinic is arranged by the Divisional Office when sufficient cases are available to warrant a session by the Ophthalmologist.

Cases are referred by School Medical Officer or School Nurse.

DENTAL CLINICS.

These are held from time to time in the area by arrangement with the Chief Dental Officer. All school children are inspected in a routine manner and any treatment required is carried out.

IMMUNISATION.

Diphtheria Immunisation is undertaken at the Infants' Welfare Clinics. Special arrangements are made at schools for immunisation of school children.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALL POX.

Vaccination, if requested by the parent, will be provided for every child within one month of birth. The parent or guardian is given a form recommending vaccination of the child, which is carried out, free of charge, either by an Assistant County Medical Officer or by a private Medical Practitioner.

HOME NURSING.

Two District Nurses are available in the area for nursing sick persons at home. Each District Nurse will have a telephone in her home so that her services are available night and day. The home nurse can be called in when required by the Family Practitioner.

DOMESTIC HELP.

A Domestic Help Service operates in the area. Such services are available :—

1. Where the housewife falls sick or must have an operation.
2. Where the wife is suddenly called away to see her husband in hospital and arrangements have to be made to look after the children.
3. For elderly people who are infirm or one of whom suddenly falls ill.
4. Where several members of the family are ill at the same time—*e.g.*, during an Influenza epidemic.
5. For cases of confinement, whether a mother is confined at home or in a hospital.

The Health Visitor is in touch with all households and will be in a position to advise whenever it is necessary to provide domestic assistance in the house.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

Three wholetime Midwives undertake domiciliary midwifery in the area. Mothers are encouraged to attend the Ante-Natal Clinic as early as possible.

The following services are available at Central Clinics in Barnsley for the Area.

CHEST CLINIC.

These are held each week at 46, Church Street, Barnsley. Cases are referred by appointment through the Divisional Office with the Consultant.

ORTHOPÆDIO CLINIO.

Clinics are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 2 p.m. at 46, Church Street, Barnsley. Cases are referred by the Divisional Medical Officer.

PÆDIATRIO CLINIC.

This Clinic is held at 46, Church Street, Barnsley, and will be held twice monthly from 2 to 4 p.m. Cases are referred by the Divisional Medical Officer or by the Family Practitioner.

CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC.

Cases are referred to the Child Guidance Clinic by appointment.

ARTIFICIAL SUNLIGHT.

Arrangements are made by appointment for this form of treatment to be provided when recommended by the School Medical Officer or by the Medical Officer in charge of the Infant Welfare Clinic.

DISEASE OF THE SKIN.

Arrangements are made by the Divisional Medical Officer for treatment to be given for certain type of skin diseases.

PREMATURE BABY UNIT.

Specialised treatment for Premature Babies will be provided in the area by the establishment of a Premature Baby Unit either in the Division or in an adjacent Division. The service of a Pædiatrician is available to give expert advice on the care of these children.

Conclusion.

I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support since taking my appointment.

Mr. Fieldhouse, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, has given me every help since I came to the Area and his co-operation has been much appreciated.

I would also like to thank Mr. Smith, the Clerk, and the other Officials of the Council for the assistance which was readily given every time I asked for it.

I am,

Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. REEVES,

*M.O.H. Urban Districts of Darton, Cudworth & Royston ;
Divisional Medical Officer, West Riding County Council.*

Darton Urban District Council.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

SANITARY DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
DARTON.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Darton Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report on the work done by my Department during 1947 in its duty of maintaining and improving the sanitary circumstances within the Area.

Mr. Harold Hobson, the Sanitary Inspector for the past fourteen years terminated his appointment at the end of 1946 to become the Council's Housing Officer, and from January 1st until my own appointment on 16th June, Mr. Hobson continued to supervise the work of the Department as Acting Sanitary Inspector.

Number of Inspections, Visits, etc.

Nuisances and Complaints (including revisits)	..	944
Overcrowding Survey ... ..	...	292
Infectious Diseases		
(including 277 on Small Pox outbreak)	...	326
Filthy and Verminous Premises	... ..	25
Rodent Control	... ..	19
Moveable Dwellings	... ..	10
Offensive Trades	... ..	1
Factories	... ..	9
Interviews and Appointments	... ..	527
Privy Conversions	... ..	212
Dry Ashpit Conversions	... ..	5
Cleansing and Salvage	... ..	223
Slaughter of Pigs (Self Suppliers)	... ..	124
Cowsheds and Dairies	... ..	68
Food Shops	... ..	17
Ice Cream Premises	... ..	30
Fried Fish Shops	... ..	12
Food Preparing Premises	... ..	1
Bakehouses	... ..	6
Schools	... ..	2
Cinemas	... ..	1
Pig Keepers' Premises and Stables	... ..	13
Shops (Shops Act)	... ..	3
Miscellaneous Premises	... ..	281
Total	... ..	<u>3,153</u>

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING.

Nuisances and Complaints.

As it so often happens when a new official is appointed many people decide that they want something and that they will see what the new man can do about it. This happened during my first few months when as many as 231 complaints were received to which attention had to be given. In following these up a total of 944 visits were recorded to the end of the year and dealt with under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

282 Informal Notices were served.

117 Informal Notices were complied with.

7 Statutory Notices were served.

1 Statutory Notice was complied with.

The majority of these notices dealt with house repairs and drainage. The unabated notices will be carried forward into next year for following up and abatement.

Overcrowding.

It is almost an impossibility to keep up to date on the incidence of overcrowding in the District. Nevertheless, 292 visits were made during the year and it is pleasing to note that the Council attach a great deal of importance to overcrowding in its allocations of Council Houses.

Infectious Disease Prevention.

326 visits were made during the year in connection with the prevention of Infectious Diseases. Of these, 277 visits were made to Small Pox contacts following an unfortunate outbreak in Barnsley. 33 houses were disinfected after cases of infectious disease by means of patent formalin fumigators. The patient's bedding undergoes Steam Disinfection at the Isolation Hospital.

Filthy and Verminous Premises.

Since the advent of the now famous D.D.T. insecticide the Department can more readily guarantee to free a house of bed bugs and other insect vermin. 8 houses were satisfactorily treated by the end of the year and in addition free assistance was given to householders for the eradication of beetles, cockroaches, etc.

The Housing Agent and myself inaugurated a scheme whereby Council Houses and the household effects of families entering Council Houses are disinfested free of charge.

If only people who are so troubled with bed bugs, instead of fighting an amateurish battle against such vermin would seek the confidential and expert assistance of the Department a much greater degree of success could then be recorded not only in the Annual Reports but upon the healthier and happier faces of the people who had suffered.

Rodent Control.

Occasional complaints are received of the presence of rats. Assistance is given by visiting the site, advising the complainant, and supplying free of charge a sufficient number of Red Squill rat biscuits where necessary.

Eleven such complaints were dealt with in 19 visits during the year.

Moveable Dwellings.

One such dwelling was inspected and licensed during the year. Another was discovered, visited and found to be unfit for habitation. A licence was refused and the van had to be vacated. No trouble was experienced with caravans occupied by nomads.

Offensive Trades.

One offensive trade only exists in the District--that of a tripe dresser. It is situated far from dwelling houses, and no nuisance has been reported.

19 Fried Fish Shops in the District are kept under supervision.

Factories.

A start was made during the year to bring the Factories Register up to date. Two complaints were received from His Majesty's Factory Inspector concerning the sanitary conveniences and these were satisfactorily dealt with.

Smoke Abatement.

No complaints have been received regarding smoke nuisances, therefore no action has been taken. Factory chimneys serving a large chemical works are however under suspicion and a system of regular observations is being planned.

Drainage Work.

Existing drains which require repair, reconstruction or alteration and new drains provided for existing buildings come within the purview of the Sanitary Inspector and must be examined and tested before covering over.

115 such drains were inspected and passed during the year.

Interviews and Appointments.

The amazing number of 527 interviews granted and appointments kept regarding sanitary matters was found to have been recorded during the year. It will be readily agreed that such a necessary duty takes up a great deal of the time of an official.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Closet Accommodation.

The following shows the number of sanitary conveniences in the District :—

Privy Middens	...	...	328
Pail Closets	...	...	4
Water Closets	...	...	2,785 approx.
Total	...		<u>3,117</u> approx.

Nine privies were converted to water closets during the year, and with such a large number of privies remaining I shall look forward to receiving your support in pursuing an extensive policy of conversions during next year.

Dry Ashpits.

The Department has been successful in persuading owners of 5 dry ashpits to abolish these in favour of the more sanitary dustbin. By the end of the year there remained 37 houses still served by 15 dry ashpits.

Dustbins.

Little difficulty is experienced in requests to owners to renew dustbins for their properties. Owners are invited to purchase the bin from the Department whereupon it is numbered and delivered to replace the worn-out bin within a few days.

Cesspools.

89 of the houses in the District are served by 56 cesspools. A monthly cleansing of each cesspool is maintained except for short breaks during holidays. It is pleasing to report that few complaints are received of this service, most householders now having learnt to take care in their usage of water so as not to cause an overflow before the regular visit of the cesspool vehicle.

FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION.

Slaughter of Pigs (Self Suppliers).

124 visits were made to Slaughterhouses to inspect 218 pigs slaughtered for Self Suppliers. As a result of this the following pork and offal was prevented from reaching the consumers' tables because of its diseased and unfit condition :—

7 Pigs' heads and tongues	...	Tuberculosis	...	182 lbs.
8 Pigs' kidneys	..	Nephritis	...	4 lbs.
2 Pig's kidneys	....	Cystic	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
1 Pig's kidney	...	Parasitic	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
5 pairs Pigs' lungs	...	Tuberculosis	...	80 lbs.
4 Pigs' mesenteries & intestines		Tuberculosis	...	24 lbs.
3 Pigs' livers	...	Tuberculosis	...	6 lbs.
1 Pig's liver	...	Parasitic	...	3 lbs.
Total				<u>249$\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.</u>

Government Central Slaughtering Scheme.

Rationed meat allocated to Darton is supplied from the Barnsley Abattoir to a centrally situated Allocation Centre in Darton. Upon inspecting the premises used I found it necessary to ask for structural improvements. This work was in progress towards the end of the year.

Cowsheds, Milk Production and Distribution.

68 inspections were made of the 28 cowsheds and dairies in the Area. A survey of these premises was completed before the end of the year and statistics brought up to date as follows:—

No. of Cowsheds and Dairies Registered	...	28
No. of Cowkeepers and Dairymen Registered	...	23
No. of Milk Cows	...	260 approx.
No. of Registered Retail Purveyors of Milk	...	24
No. of Registered Wholesale Purveyors of Milk	...	15

The majority of milk supplied to the District is delivered to the consumers in sealed bottles, by far the most hygienic method. Four milk dealers were issued with Supplementary Licences from the Council to retail Pasteurised milk, four dealers to retail Tuberculin Tested and one Accredited.

MISCELLANEOUS FOOD PREMISES.

Visits and Inspections have been maintained throughout the year to Bakehouses, Food Preparing Premises, Ice Cream Premises and Food Shops,

During the year the Council adopted Standards of hygiene for Ice Cream Premises to be observed before such premises would be accepted for Registration under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. By the end of the year one manufactory and four shops had been registered.

Other Foods Inspection.

Details of foodstuffs voluntarily surrendered and destroyed as unfit for human consumption are given below :—

Dried Peas	...	...	...	...	224 lbs.
Sugar	...	...	...	...	29 lbs.
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	5½ lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	3 lbs.
Margarine	...	...	...	...	42 lbs.
Dates	...	...	...	...	32 lbs.
Porridge Oats	...	...	...	...	4 lbs.
Prunes	...	...	...	...	10 lbs.
Miscellaneous Canned Foods	...	...	...	...	24 lbs.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE.

In the interests of Public Health the Department maintains a weekly emptying of dustbins, a monthly collection from privy-middens and a monthly emptying of cesspools. Salvage collections are also undertaken.

For this service 16 men and a foreman are employed. The Council owns two, seven cubic yard refuse vehicles; one, six cubic yard scavenging vehicle and one, 500 gallons capacity cesspool emptying vehicle. A horse and cart is placed at our disposal, one day each week, by the Highways Department to cleanse privy-middens which are inaccessible to the motor vehicle.

Controlled tipping of refuse is practised as far as possible on three main tips at Darton Main, Blacker and Dayhouse. No trouble has been experienced from nuisance, rats, crickets or other causes.

The Council undertakes the removal of Trade Refuse, free of charge, except where the quantities are much in excess of normal. In return the trades-people of the Area save their Salvage for collection by the Department.

Snow removal is not normally undertaken by the Cleansing Department, but, in February, when bins were inaccessible due to an exceptionally heavy downfall, the men and vehicles co-operated with the Highways Department and removed 189 loads of snow from roads and footpaths.

	Receptacles Cleansed	Loads Collected
Privies and Ashpits	2,024	1,415
Dustbins	117,130	2,556
Cesspools	531	1,849
Salvage	...	134
Cover to Tips	...	275
Snow Removal	...	189
Miscellaneous	...	4
Totals	119,685	6,422

SCAVENGING ACCOUNT.

EXPENDITURE—					£	s.	d.
Wages of Workmen and Foreman	...	...	...	...	4,405	15	6½
Rents, Rates, Insurances, etc.	...	...	...	...	96	12	8
Horsekeep	...	...	...	...	15	12	7
DEPOTS—							
Repairs and Maintenance	...	...	...	...	89	0	4
MOTOR VEHICLES—							
Petrol, Oil, Repairs, etc.	...	...	...	...	712	6	7
Provision for Renewal of Vehicle	...	...	...	...	400	0	0
Licences	...	...	...	...	122	10	0
Clerical Staff	...	...	...	...	118	12	4
Protective Clothing	...	...	...	...	56	10	5
Total	...	...	...	...	£6,012	0	0½
INCOME—					£	s.	d.
Collection of Waste Materials							
(Less Expenditure)	...	...	...	...	88	9	0
Sundry Credits	...	...	...	...	6	13	0
					£95	2	0
Expenditure, Less Income	...	...	...	...	£5,916	18	0½

Items not chargeable to the Cleansing Service are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Disinfections	7	2	3
Disinfestations	5	6	9
Housing Work	18	9	
Civil Defence	3	11	
Highways (Snow Removal)	50	2	8
Work for other Departments	2	7	10
Cesspool Vehicle Hire	5	19	6
	£72	1	8

	£	s.	d.
Then	£5,916	18	0½
Less	£	72	1 8
Actual Gross Costs	£5,844	16	4½

Itemised charges for Services shown in Monthly Reports :—

					£	s.	d.
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	1,983	0	10
Ashpits and Privies	..	...	...	...	640	6	8
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	312	14	8
Disposal	...	...	...	...	277	16	10
Covering to Tips	...	...	...	...	6	1	9½
Salvage	...	...	...	...	86	14	9
Vehicle Maintenance	...	...	...	...	55	15	6½
Holiday Pay	...	...	...	...	184	17	7
					<hr/>		
					£3,547	8	8
					<hr/>		
Actual Gross Costs	...	...	...	...	£5,844	16	4½
Less Itemised Charges	...	...	...	...	£3,547	8	8
					<hr/>		
Overheads	...	...	...	...	£2,297	7	8½
					<hr/>		

The all-in-figures for the various services are itemised as follows :—

DUSTBINS—

117,130 cleansed at	...	...	4.1d. per bin.
2,556 loads at	...	...	15s. 6.2d. per load.

PRIVIES AND ASHPITS—

2,024 cleansed at	...	...	6s. 3.9d. per receptacle.
1,415 loads at	...	...	9s. 0.6d. per load.

CESSPOOLS—

531 cleansed at	...	...	11s. 9.3d. per receptacle.
1,849 loads at	...	...	3s. 4.5 per load.

DISPOSAL—

Total loads exclusive of Salvage	=	6,095.
Cost	=	£277 16s. 10d
Therefore cost per load	...	= 10.9d.

Salvage.

PERIOD JANUARY 1ST, 1947, TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1947.

				Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Baled Waste Paper	...			17	18	2	0	114	5	4
Rags and Flock	...	..		0	17	0	0	11	1	6
Feathers	...	...	...	0	0	2	7	2	18	0
Total	...	...		18	16	0	7			
Glass Jars	..	...	...	156 dozen.				11	14	0
Cartons	...	...	...	387				3	4	6
Bottles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	0	0
Miscellaneous	...	...		...	...	...	...	15	0	
Total	...	...		...	...	...	...	£153	18	4

Towards the end of the year the Council approved a salvage bonus scheme for the workmen with the result that on the 31st December, waste paper collections had increased to such an extent that the Council earned an Increased Collection Bonus from the Board of Trade.

No Kitchen Waste collections are organised, but a scheme has been formulated to come into operation in 1948.

Conclusion.

It is my pleasure to record my appreciation of the assistance and support given to me by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and the Medical Officer of Health. The attitude of the other Council Officials has also been of an exceptionally helpful and friendly character. I look forward to this happy relationship being maintained in the future.

I am,

Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

IRVINE FIELDHOUSE,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.*

